

The Acton Free Press

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Business and Editorial Office

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See you at the fair

What many regard as the best small town fair in the province, the Acton Fall Fair returns this weekend for its 70th edition.

I know we say it every year, but once again it looks bigger and better than ever before.

All the old favorites are back, with some great new fun events.

All that's needed now is great weather and it should be one of the outstanding extravaganzas of all time.

Get there early, the crowds should be bigger than ever before.

Likely a goodly number of out-of-towners who attended the recent Leathertown Market and Ciderfest will return for a second helping of Acton fun and hospitality.

Of course most of the town goes and many, many former residents take advantage of this tremendous

weekend to come back home and rekindle friendships. This fair has been promoted all over Halton, Peel, Hamilton, Guelph, Metro Toronto, and Kitchener through the North Halton Tourism Association fall travel guide and media coverage of Heritage Days up here too, which should produce some extra visitors too.

Prospect Park will be packed. It's a great weekend and a bargain at the price. So don't miss a single minute, and leave your car at home.

We're dispatching at least three reporter-photographers to the fair, so watch for a slew of photos next week in the Free Press.

A hearty thank-you to all those who make this three day show possible and good luck this weekend.—G.M.

Run for Terry

Here's hoping the weather again shines down on the Terry Fox Run this Sunday, the third annual giant cancer fundraising project held in Acton, and the rest of Canada.

If the weather's good then we fully expect Acton to establish a new mark of generosity for this paramount cause in memory of one of the greatest figures in this country's history.

Acton has an enviable record, considering the community's size for raising phenomenal sums for cancer.

In advance of the event we'd like to congratulate the hard working committee which stages this event, as well as the many volunteers who help out the day of the run, for a job well done and wish all concerned good luck.

Remember, if you can't run, walk, jog or ride around the track at Acton High School this Sunday, sponsor someone. And if you don't know someone who is participating to sponsor, drop by on your way to the fair on Sunday and make a donation.—G.M.

Letter

Miss Acton says thanks

Dear Acton:

As this year's fair fast approaches it brings excitement for most, and anxiety for those eager to see the result of a year's hard work.

I am experiencing both of these, plus a third: disbelief that it arrived so quickly—for I am soon to be a "past" Fair Queen. Like most people, I don't like to let a good thing go.

Without a doubt this year has been the most productive and rewarding of my life; not only for the knowledge attained, but also for the opened doors and those that, after a glimpse of what they hid, closed again. Very important also, is the self-confidence I gained through peoples' appreciation of me, and what I represented as Acton Fair Queen.

To the Fair Board and everyone

who encouraged and helped me along the way, especially Maggie, a sincere thank you. I only hope that I haven't let you down.

No matter how far I dig my heels into the ground or how much I struggle with the hands of the clock, the end draws nearer. I hand over my crown with deep regret. I suppose the same way a child refuses to share a toy. But I will never lose the memories of the elation and excitement, the tears and the fears. And on a much happier note, as I join the ranks of the "has-beens", I can be secure in the knowledge that, although there will be many more Acton Fair Queens, I am still and always will be, the only one of 1982.

Thank you Acton, for the memories.

Sincerely,
Lisa Petty
Miss Acton Fall Fair, 1982



From the editor's desk

Tom taught me a lot

I learned a lot about politics, and sometimes about my own business and the press's role, covering Tom Hill.

Tom gave me a grade A lesson in how much stock to put in what politicians, especially heavyweights, have to say. Put another way, the higher up they are the better they talk, the more sincere they sound, and the more likely they are to fill dead air with meaningless drivel.

I arrived at the Dills paper in Georgetown, The Independent, in mid-June of '74. About two months later Hartley Coles and Anne Currie, my editors, assigned me to cover a meeting of the mayor, Halton East MPP and cabinet minister Jim Snow, and Minister of Industry and Trade, Claude Bennett.

It was to take place in Bennett's travelling mobile home late on a hot Friday afternoon at Georgetown Market Centre.

I thought it was a pretty big deal, two cabinet ministers coming to Halton Hills to meet the chief himself. I was suitably impressed with myself too, since Hart and Anne were entrusting me with such an important assignment.

I had visions of big front page stories dropping from Bennett's lips as I drove up to the plaza.

I was pretty excited, but when Tom strolled up to the appointed meeting place I quickly learned he didn't share my emotions.

Tom growled his usual greeting to me and asked where the minister was. He asked me if Bennett was aware he wanted to get away early to the track and didn't intend to wait around long for the meeting.

Finally Bennett arrived and we all went in to air conditioned, posh, mobile comfort. It had a big banner so all the late Friday afternoon shoppers would see Bennett had come to see us.

I can't recall everything that was said. I do remember my hand sweating so much, I was so excited, I could hardly write the words of wisdom I was hearing.

I do remember Tom grumbling a lot about regional government and Snow pleading with him to give it a chance while Bennett kept trying to change the subject to what he came to talk about, industry and tourism development to benefit Halton Hills. In short, what a great job Queen's Park and his ministry, in particular were doing for the new Town and its citizens.

Bennett was going to designate Highway 7 through Halton Hills a Heritage Highway and that would bring the tourists. This was long before Leathertown and the North Halton Tourism Association and he made no mention of them stopping to do or see anything here, so presumably the local economy would only be boosted if these tourists got a flat tire, needed gas or food, etc. Bennett neglected to mention when he'd make Highway 7 a Heritage Highway, he was just feeling mayors out on the idea.

As for industrial development, well Halton Hills would be in fine shape. Regional government would be attractive to industry and besides the new Town had Highway 401 just within its southern boundary.

Tom, while giving luke-warm support to Bennett's ideas, made it clear he wouldn't be holding his breath to see these marvels happen.

He kept returning to the topics he'd stayed late from the track to dump in Bennett's lap.

I frankly, was puzzled by Tom's reaction.

I could understand why Jim Snow was getting annoyed at Tom and looking slightly embarrassed by the mayor's cantankerous behavior. (I don't today, Jim's just a



by Gord Murray
Free Press editor

slightly more polished version of Tom in my book.)

Afterwards I interviewed the mayor about his strange reaction to the minister's promises of good things in store for us.

Tom, none too pleasantly, informed me I shouldn't have my head turned by cabinet ministers. Bennett wasn't here to make a big announcement, he just came to play to the local press and talk about a few things which might never happen and if they did would be of questionable value to the Town. He allowed he didn't mind the exposure, that was the trade off for his looking like he backed the provincial Tories. (Which in fact Tom did.)

Undaunted, I called Hart at home to tell him about these two fantastic stories I had for Georgetown and the Free Press. I couldn't wait until Monday to tell him about the gems I'd gleaned. Hartley sounded just enthusiastic enough not to discourage my youthful enthusiasm, and just restrained enough so I wasn't too surprised to find he didn't put them on the front, where I thought the stories were sure to end up, even though it was summer and news was slow.

Yup, Tom was absolutely correct. I'm still waiting to see someone, it won't be Bennett since he's no longer connected with industry or tourism, name Highway 7 a Heritage Highway and put signs up. And, have you noticed a lot of industry streaming to Acton and Georgetown because regional government is such a blessing?

Back issues

10 years ago

September 12, 1973

An application for cable television in Acton has been made to the CRTC in Ottawa by Georgetown Cable TV. Bethel Christian Reformed Church Calvinettes raised \$400 for recreation purposes in a 30-mile bikeathon over the weekend.

Acton 4-H members Carol Somerville and Cathy Lasby placed first and second at the Judging contest at the Canadian National Exhibition last week. The girls had to judge six out of eight livestock and produce classes.

A swimming pool and three tennis courts have received approval from Acton Council. The pool will be installed at Acton High School by Acton Lions Club. Tennis courts are slated for Robert Little School grounds.

20 years ago

September 12, 1953

"Mill St. is no place for ladies," said councillor Eric Johnson. A thorough crackdown by Acton Police on rowdiness on Acton's main business street is urged after a personal account, by Johnson, of hearing obscene language and several disturbances.

Before Acton Council gives approval for a new high school addition, a meeting will be held with council members from Nassagaweya and Esquesing Townships to review school costs. This was agreed upon Tuesday after a report from the school board had been reviewed.

Attendance at the Robert Little Public School is down four pupils from last year while the M.Z. Bennett school registered 21 more than last year.

50 years ago

September 14, 1933

Eramosa council will dispense with direct relief this winter and provide work for able-bodied men needing assistance. The work will consist of cutting down hills on the fourth line approaching No. 7 highway and such other public work as may be practical.

On Monday 21 Acton bowlers visited Georgetown for a mixed tournament. Local winners were Mrs. W.J. McDonald, Miss M. Garvin and Mr. Thos. Bailey.

The Literary Society of the High School was organized. Honorary president is Mr. Gifford, president Hugh Fraser, vice-president Marjorie Near, secretary-treasurer Dorothy Coxie, Executive Howard Norton, Margaret Arnold, Elma Braida, Hector Lambert.

75 years ago

September 10, 1908

Brampton was waterloosed completely in the Halton-Peel League final game as Acton won 26 to 4. Home runs were by Holmes, Hynds, N. Ryder. The champions arrived home from Brampton by the 8.30 train and were met at the station by Acton Citizens Band, scores of torch bearers and hundreds of citizens. The champions were invited to seats in a carriage and were drawn down town by a score of admirers. A halt was made at the Merchants Bank corner where H.P. Moore of the Free Press was invited to take the chair. After extending congratulations he called upon Messrs. D. Henderson, M.P., and ex-Reeve Hynds to speak. The team, composed entirely of our own citizens, won ten of the twelve games.

The garden party under the auspices of the Ladies' Aid of Crewwons Corners Methodist church was a grand success. Proceeds amounted to \$75.

The works of Acton Tanning Co. opened again after being closed for a fortnight. Prospects are now brightening for steady running at full time.

100 years ago

Sept. 12, 1883

The library, formerly located at the Acton Public School, is moved to the town hall for the convenience of the citizens. There are nearly 1400 volumes in the library.

Mr. John Duff of Everton arrived here last Tuesday morning from Scotland with a couple of fine Clydesdale Stallions.

Miss Annie Kennedy left last week to take a position as teacher in one of the public schools in Alpena Michigan.

Mr. R.R. Rae's six months' vacation closes this week. He will resume his position at the GTR next Monday.

Mrs. Arch Campbell left on Tuesday on a visit with friends in Manitoba.

Coles slaw

Sometimes grandpa's tea stood to attention

It's time I cleared up a few odds and ends in this column accumulating over the last few weeks.

First I was delighted to receive a letter from Jean (Brunelle) St. Denis from Sudbury last week commenting on the column I wrote about my grandfather and his trick of burning my arm with a hot spoon.

Jean says: "Just a wee note to let you know that you were not the only one burned by the great man of command."

"I remember many a time sharing a pot of brew with the joker. The tea was so strong I think it even stood at attention for this man of many pranks. With fresh bread from the bakers and peanut butter bought in a wooden boat at the corner store (then owned by Mr. Wood) and later Ernie Marks.

"Methinks the teaspoon trick must have been an old English prank, handed down. If you remember Charlie Rushmore, his dad and my uncle, used to pull the same trick and I was outwitted by both of those foxy gentlemen.

"Your column brings back many memories, keep them coming."

P.S.—Say hi to Jess.
Jeanie, of course, was a Brunelle before she married and grew up in Acton. She has many fond mem-

ories of those days and keeps tabs on happenings through the pages of The Free Press.

Free Press publisher Ken Bellamy has some really kind words to say about Chris McMillan and the staff at Acton post office for the job they have done in speeding up mail delivery of this newspaper each week. The press schedules and deadlines at the plant were moved ahead by several hours to ensure that people would get their Free Press as soon as possible. The post office was contacted and they have been more than helpful in seeing people get their community newspaper almost before the ink dries on the pages.

Horror stories about service at the post office such as late letters and parcels will continue to surface so long as human beings are handling the mail but I think the effort at streamlining operations across the country is starting to pay results. However, there has never really been a problem at local post offices. They have always cleared the mail just as fast as they could. The problems usually occur at the big mail centres such as Gateway in Mississauga.



by Hartley Coles
Managing Editor

Anyway, one of the reasons The Free Press is reaching you earlier by mail is because the post office has given better than 100 per cent to speed up delivery. And we are grateful here.

Those signs at the edge of town which advertise the population of Acton as being only 5,000 or more than a few residents. This community's population is really somewhere around the 7,000 mark and it's important in small towns to see those numbers keep pace with growth.

Acton had a population of 5,040 back in 1971, according to the federal census taken that year with 4,110 residents born in Canada,

about four-fifths. It has been 12 years since that census was taken and obviously the highway sign must have been erected shortly after the figures were circulated. The community has grown quite a bit since then and the population has increased accordingly but the highway signs fail to reflect the changes.

Word is that Halton Hills is going to update the signs on the edge of town with new ones but it is doubtful if population figures will be included. Those wanting to know how many people live in Acton will have to look for other sources. Meanwhile, the signs for Halton Hills are still there on all the major entrances to Town advertising a population of 35,500 in most places and 33,500 in others.

Probably it would be a good idea to have a small portable sign attached to the large one specifying population figures. When they need changing they could be easily removed and additions or erasures noted.

Not that it makes much difference how many people live in a community. The quality of life in each municipality is important. The number of people enjoying it isn't. But it is misleading to be as far out as 2,000 people in a community Acton's size.